

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr KLINKENBORG, Mr KEY, Mr ALBERS,
Mr GABERT and Mr SEEFELD

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on financing the common transport infrastructure
policy from the tax on mineral oils

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the great importance of the transport network for modern industrial countries,
 - having regard to the fact that it would be possible by joint endeavours, requiring relatively modest funding, to eliminate bottlenecks in the European transport system, thus saving Europe's economy thousands of millions of units of account a year and making movement within the Community and to and from third countries considerably easier for businessmen and tourists,
 - having regard to the Commission's proposal on the introduction of a common system of payment for the use of transport infrastructure (OJ C 62/71) and the European Parliament's opinion thereon (Doc. 195/73, OJ C 108/73),
 - having regard to Mr Klinkenborg's report on the Commission's Memorandum (COM(79) 550 final) on the role of the Community in the development of transport infrastructure (Doc. 1-601/80),
 - having regard to the tight budgetary situation in the Community and the Member States,
1. Calls on the Commission to consider whether joint measures in the field of transport infrastructure, i.e. support for projects of importance and interest to Europe, can be financed from a share of the revenue, to be made over to the Community; accruing from taxation on mineral oils;
 2. Considers that the elimination of transport bottlenecks is a constructive energy-saving measure and that it would therefore be sound policy to provide the funds for this purpose from the tax on mineral oils;
 3. Stresses that the plan to use the tax on mineral oils as a means of saving energy and increasing budgetary funds will be more acceptable to the taxpayers concerned if at least part of these funds is earmarked for infrastructure projects which are of direct benefit to these taxpayers;
 4. Points out that, in its proposals for a common system of payment for the use of transport infrastructure, the Commission had already proposed earmarking fuel tax and road vehicle tax in this way;
 5. Regards the solution to the problem of recovering infrastructure costs as one of the basic components of any rational transport policy and especially of any conceivable common transport policy for the Community;
 6. Requests the Council, therefore, to expedite the work required for the adoption of the Commission's proposals;

7. Asks the Council and the Commission, however, in anticipation of the adoption of the system of payment for the use of transport infrastructure, to include a 'European centime' from the fuel tax of the Member States in the Community budget and earmark it for the promotion of European transport infrastructure projects;
8. Is aware that the earmarking of funds contravenes previously accepted principles of financial policy, but points out nonetheless that, partly because of the huge cost of financing the railways deficit, transport policy raises such serious financial problems that the only hope for the future is to try new, unconventional methods such as the system of payment for the use of infrastructure and the earmarking of transport taxes;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission and to the transport committees of the parliaments of the Member States.